



Docket No.: 62807-147

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Customer Number: 20277
: Confirmation Number: 5915
Masahiro TOOMA, et al. :
: Group Art Unit: 2856
Application No.: 10/696,564 : Allowed: January 10, 2005
: Examiner: J. M. Saint-Surin
Filed: October 30, 2003 :
:
For: ULTRASONIC ARRAY SENSOR, ULTRASONIC INSPECTION INSTRUMENT AND
ULTRASONIC INSPECTION METHOD

**COMMENTS RESPONSIVE TO STATEMENT OF
REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 104(e)**

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The January 10, 2005 Notice of Allowability regarding the above-identified application included a Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Entry of that Statement into the record should not be construed as any agreement with or acquiescence by Applicants in the stated reasoning.

The Statement includes several quotations, purportedly relating to the various independent claims and asserts that the quoted language is not in the prior art of record. The language of the claims is already clear and concise, therefore repetition of even selected portions here adds nothing to the record.

Also, there are discrepancies between the quotations and at least some of the claim language. For example, the quotation with regard to claim 14 is inaccurate in that it refers to a control unit not recited in claim 14. Claim 14 specifies a focusing step that does not include

some of the additional words quoted in the Statement with regard to claims 5 and 14. It is respectfully submitted that it is the properly construed language actually appearing in the allowed claims that determines the scope of patentable coverage of each individual claim.

All of the claims have been allowed in the first action on the merits, without any rejection or narrowing amendment. It is respectfully submitted that the allowed claims should be entitled the broadest reasonable interpretation and broadest range of equivalents that are appropriate in light of the language of the claims and the supporting disclosure, without reference to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

To the extent necessary, if any, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Please recognize our Customer No. 20277
as our correspondence address.**